

Smart Water Use in Chino Valley

Tip #3: Smart Water Use Landscape Ideas

Select plants that are suitable for low water use landscapes. Native plants are particularly adapted to the area and generally require less maintenance than non-native varieties. Seek advice from experienced landscape professionals or your local nursery.

1. Select and install an efficient irrigation system.
2. Plant in the fall or early spring.
3. Collect a soil sample for testing at the County Extension Agency and add fertilizer if needed.
4. Group plants with similar light and water needs in the same irrigation zone.
5. Clear all planting areas of weeds.
6. Consider installing a layer of woven fabric to reduce weed growth.
7. Plant trees first, shrubs next, and groundcover with accents last.
8. Remember that plants grow. Properly space plants based on mature size. Leave plenty of room between plants and buildings or powerlines.
9. A planting hole should be as deep as the rootball and three times as wide. Rootballs should be even with the surface when placed in the hole.
10. Check drainage by watering the hole before the plant is set.
11. If a plant is root bound, loosen the roots and clip those that are growing around the rootball.
12. Water immediately after planting and closely watch for signs of distress for several days.

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13. Immediately remove weeds that grow around new plants.
14. Fertilize sparingly. Healthy plants don't need fertilizer. If using fertilizer, apply every two to four years in the early spring. Water immediately.
15. Prune with care to preserve a plant's natural shape. Don't prune for one to two years after planting, but do remove dead and broken limbs.
16. Established plants should be watered infrequently but deeply. Plants newly set in the spring should be watered two to three times a week initially, decreasing to once a week or less by summer.
17. Walk across the lawn. If footprints appear, its time to water.

18. A plant's leaves provide clues to its health:

- *A dull or bluish leaf means the plant is stressed for water.*
- *Wilting can be a result of under or overwatering, over fertilization, or incorrectly applied herbicide. Dig to find the cause and aerate around the roots if necessary.*
- *Dead leaves can be the product of hot, windy conditions when a plant needed water; dead spots are a sign of sun burning.*
- *Brown edges can be a result of poor drainage, excess salts in the soil, or compacted soil.*
- *Older leaves naturally fall from tress, but can point to a lack or sunlight or stress after transplant.*
- *Yellow leaves can signify a lack of nitrogen.*



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Water Resource Department
1982 N. Voss Dr.
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